We claim:

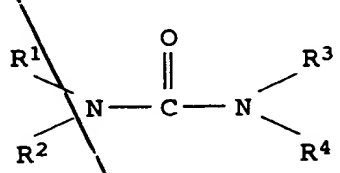
1. A process for the preparation of a polyisocyanate which contains one or more biuret groups by reacting

a) an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic isocyanate containing two or more isocyanate groups (isocyanate a) with

b) a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of water and a tertiary alcohol (biuretizing agent b)

at from 100 to 250°C, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the presence

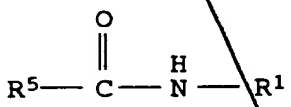
c) of a stabilizer (c) consisting essentially of ~~which constitutes~~ a catalytic amount of urea, ammonia, biuret, a urea derivative of the formula I



(I),

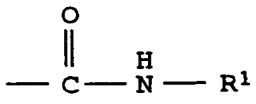
in which R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, C_1 to C_{10} alkyl or C_6 to C_{10} aryl, or

a carboxamide of the formula II



(II),

in which R^5 is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl which is unsubstituted or in which 1, 2 or 3 hydrogen atoms are replaced by a radical



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2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isocyanate (a) is a C_4 to C_{20} diisocyanate or triisocyanate.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the isocyanate (a) is hexamethylene-1,6-diisocyanate.

4. A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the biuretizing agent (b) is a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of a tertiary alcohol and ~~water including~~ up to 80 mol% of water based on the sum of the components of the mixture.

5. A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the tertiary alcohol is tert-butanol.

6. A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein from 0.5 to 20 mol% of biuretizing agent (b) ~~are~~ is employed, based on the isocyanate groups in (a).

7. A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein from 0.01 to 2.0 mol% of a stabilizer (c) ~~are~~ is employed, based on the isocyanate groups in (a).

8. A process as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 140 to 220°C.

9. A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the polyisocyanate containing biuret groups is prepared and then unreacted isocyanate (a) is removed from it down to a content of less than 0.5% by weight, based on the polyisocyanate which contains biuret groups.